parancy in the Export-Import Policies and eliminate or minimise quantitative restrictions, licencing and other discretionary controls. The Policy aims at encouraging exports and facilitating imports-linked to exports besides ensuring availability of mases consumpation items. Import liberalisation mainly focusses on promoting efficiency, productivity and quality Import of Indian industry/ products besides improving competitiveness. liberalisation is being effected in a phased manner and cautiously giving sufficient time for the indigenous industry to adjust and with care taken to ensure that small scale sector is not affected.

New markets for Tobacco in North Africa

114. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board sent a team to North Africa to find new markets;

(b) if so, the results of this visit; and

(c) the quantity of tobacco exported so far during 1995-96 to North Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A trade delegation visited Iran, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt in June'95.

(b) The salient results of the visit are as under:

(i) The Algerian side agreed to call for tenders for about 1500 tons of Indian tobacco in August/September, 1995.

(ii) The Tunisian side agreed to consider sending a technical delegation to India to assess suitability of Indian tobacco for their cigarette blends.

(iii) The Egyptian Government Tobacco Company agreed to consider imports of Indian tobacco.

(c) During 1995-96 so far only 50 tons of tobacco has been exported to Egypt.

Poverty alleviation schemes in Karnataka

115. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted any poverty alleviation schemes to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the assistance sought in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) No poverty alleviation scheme has been submitted by the State Government of Karnataka to the Central Government. However, three major on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented for poverty alleviation in the rural areas of Karnataka, are : (1) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (2) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY): and (3) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The allocations for these schemes during the current financial year 1995-96 are as follows:

Scheme		(Rs. in lakhs)
IRDP		2797.00
JRY	1st stream	16875.55
	2nd stream	1882.00
EAS		8080.00 (Release)

No specific allocation is made under the scheme of EAS as this is demand-driven).

Strengthening Trade Ties with Republics of CIS

116. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to re-establish and strengthen

bilateral trade relations with the republic of commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is keen to re-establish and strengthen bilateral trade relation with CIS and the steps taken in this regard are as follows:

(i) Signing of new bilateral framework agreements on trade and economic cooperation with the newly emergent countries of the former Soviet Union and substitution of rupee payment trade by standard convertible currency trading agreements.

(ii) Evolution of a more liberal credit policy vis-a-vis CIS states (Credits worth US $ 55 million have already been advanced to Central Asian Republics).

(iii) Liberalization, in consultation with RBI, of consignment exports and warehousing regulation.

(iv) Identification and development of more viable transport and transit routes-commissioning of a multi-sectoral study team to study transit routes to Central Asia via Iran; initiatives on development of the port of Novorossisk for trade with Russia.

(v) Conclusion of bilateral air traffic agreements and commencement of direct flights to the new capitals of CIS.

(vi) Encouragement to establishment of direct business contacts inter alia through participation in trade fairs etc.

(vii) Setting up of Joint Commission, Joint Committees and holding of meetings.

(viii) In the case of Russia, a number of initiatives have been taken which include; (a) activation of the first meetings of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission followed by intensive follow-up; (b) high level visits including by the Prime Minister and Commerce Minister leading to intensive discussions with the top Russian leadership; (c) reiteration by the Russian side of the Commitment to evolve a mechanism to use debt re-payment funds and import of tea, tobacco, etc. on a long term basis; (d) formation and meeting of a sub-group on transport to address all transport related matters; (e) impetus to Joint Venture Banks etc.

कृषि उत्पादों, संसाधित खाद्य पदार्थों और मसालों का निर्यात किया जाना

117. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक वर्ष देशवार कृषि उत्पादों, संसाधित खाद्य पदार्थों और मसालों की कितनी मात्रा का निर्यात किया गया है और इससे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित हुई है;

(ख) उक्त निर्यात में देश के किन-किन राज्यों की हिस्सेदारी है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इन वस्तुओं का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान निर्यात किए गए विभिन्न कृषि जन्य मदों के विस्तृत विवरण निम्नानुसार है:—